

**Sandra Lyn Bailey**

05-171

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**From:** Ben Fugitt [BGFUGA@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2006 9:55 AM  
**To:** KJMWEB  
**Subject:** Comments to the Chairman

MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Ben Fugitt (BGFUGA@aol.com) writes:

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While I applaud Commissioner Adelstein's expose on "fake news", I was expecting the Bush administration to have a stance on less regulation of business as opposed to more. Freedom of the press is an essential element of our society. The problem has been exposed in the media, let the media and the ultimate consumers of that media decide what to do about it. The solution is not spending my tax dollars so the FCC can censor the news. I think it would have a chilling effect on the news media, and sends us down the road to government controlled media like Communist China. Please spend my tax dollars on more worthwhile endeavors, making sure young children do not have access to pornography, sorting out the fair use of public airwaves and broadcast licensing, etc. Let the free press be "free" and police themselves--or let viewers do so by changing the channel to reputable outlets.

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Remote host: 208.54.76.173  
Remote IP address: 208.54.76.173

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Sandralyn Bailey

05/171

From: Greg [gpkozak@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2006 11:51 AM  
To: KJMWEB  
Cc: news@wilx.com  
Subject: FCC 05-84

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Office of the Secretary

Chairman Martin:

I'm writing to express a concern regarding television news broadcast content of WILX in Lansing, Michigan. I late January and again in late February, 2006, WILX broadcast video news releases without any disclosure as to the source or sponsorship of these "news" stories. January's piece concerned the Renaissance Center in Detroit (content provided by General Motors), and February's piece centered on National Pancake Week (content provided by General Mills).

Without any type of disclosure as required by sections 317 and 507 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), I am alleging that WILX violated the Act, as detailed in MB Docket No. 05-171 dated April 13, 2005.

I would ask that the FCC investigating this allegation and responding to me, either by email or postal mail, as to the findings of that investigation. Please advise me if there are official complaint form that are required to be submitted to register this complaint.

Thank you for serving as Chairman.

Sincerely,

Gregory P. Kozak  
3040 Boston Boulevard  
Lansing, Michigan 48910-2535

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Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around  
<http://mail.yahoo.com>

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

05/17/1

**From:** Jeanne Smith [jeanne2972@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 8:59 PM  
**To:** KJMWEB  
**Subject:** Comments to the Chairman

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Jeanne Smith (jeanne2972@yahoo.com) writes:

Great report on fake news on Democracy Now. It was about fake news reports being used as real news on broadcasts. It bothers me that companies like drug and electronic companies, are getting free advertisements, especially to blast an opposing company or pushing a new product. What bothers me most however is that the fake news replaces real news. These paid for reports become 'real' news in the eyes of the viewer. I would, as a viewer, watch one of these reports and give it greater legitimacy because I saw it on the news. Also what is real news? I've lost confidence that what I'm seeing is real. I believe that there should be a price paid for this dishonesty.

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LIBRARY

**Sandralyn Bailey**

05-171

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**From:** Angreg@aol.com

**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 1:30 PM

**To:** KJMWEB; Michael Copps; dtayloratateweb; Jonathan Adelstein

**Subject:** (no subject)

MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

I support the Center for Media and Democracy's efforts, which demands that fake Video News Releases by ended and that full disclosure of sources become standard practice.

Gerard Cox  
Brookline, MA

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5/5/2006

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

**From:** DeVere@aol.com

**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 8:08 PM

**To:** KJMWEB

**Subject:** Fake News

05/17/1  
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MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**Please act immediately to stop fake news from airing on local and network news programs.**

**Sincerely,**

**De Vere Boyd  
80713 Camino San Lucas  
Indio, CA 92203-7465**

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

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105/177

**From:** cedric.bess@prsa.org

**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2006 2:32 PM

**To:** KJMWEB

**Cc:** Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; dtayloratweb; catherine.bolton@prsa.org

**Subject:** Letter from PRSA - Media Ownership & Pre-Packaged News

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Martin,

Attached please find a letter from PRSA Advocacy Advisory Board Chairman Michael G. Cherenson, APR, and PRSA Past President and Washington Initiative Chairwoman Judith T. Phair, APR, Fellow PRSA.

---

**Cedric L. Bess**  
**Director, Public Relations**  
**Public Relations Society of America**  
**33 Maiden Lane, 11th Floor**  
**New York, NY 10038-5150**  
**Phone: (212) 460-1495**  
**Fax: (212) 995-0757**  
**cedric.bess@prsa.org**  
**www.prsa.org**

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

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**From:** Joyce Bernstein  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 12:59 PM  
**To:** Jonathan Adelstein  
**Subject:** In case you haven't seen this report

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

<http://www.prwatch.org/fakenews/execsummary>

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ENCLOSURE

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

0571

**From:** Erica Iacono [erica.iacono@prweek.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2006 3:20 PM  
**To:** Jonathan Adelstein  
**Subject:** PRWeek

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Mr. Adelstein:

In light of the Center for Media and Democracy's "Fake TV News" report issued last week, I was hoping to speak to you about the FCC's plans for dealing with the disclosure of VNRs by news stations. Is the FCC in favor of enforced continuous labeling of VNRs by the TV stations, for example? Please let me know if you are available for a short phone interview today.

Sincerely,  
Erica Iacono

Erica Iacono  
Reporter  
PR Week  
114 W. 26th St.  
New York, NY 10001  
phone: 646-638-6102  
fax: 646-638-6115  
erica.iacono@prweek.com

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

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**From:** HAL GOLD [hgwct@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2006 4:25 PM  
**To:** KJMWEB  
**Subject:** Re: Video New Releases

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MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

I wish to heartily endorse any action you might take to curb the misleading tactics of those organizations that are sending canned propaganda to TV stations without adding proper identification as to the source of the "news."

Harold Gold  
5930 El Escorpion Road  
Woodland Hills, Ca. 91367  
818-348-1998

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

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05-171

**From:** Inside Radio [insideradio@gmail.com]**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2006 5:40 PM**To:** Jonathan Adelstein**Cc:** KJMWEB; Michael Copps; dtayloratateweb**Subject:** Broadcast stations accepting undisclosed cash payments for programs**RECEIVED**

MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

I admire your tough position on enforcing the provisions of the Communications Act and the FCC rules that prohibit stations from taking anything of consideration for material that is aired without disclosure. You have been focused on payola, plugola, and video news releases. I'd like to bring another form of undisclosed payments to your attention. It's a practice that is in clear violation of Section 317 of the Communications, section 73.1212 of the FCC rules, and probably violates rules about political advertising and political use of broadcast outlets, as well as general campaign finance laws.

The organization known as Air America Radio was founded and is operated by politically motivated individuals and organizations. It was intended to provide an alternative to the many nationally syndicated radio talk shows that lean to the right. There is no problem with this agenda. The problem is that Air America is using funds raised by politicians, political organizations, and politically motivated individuals to pay millions of dollars to broadcast stations to have these programs aired. No disclosure of these payments is made to the public.

For instance, KTLK Los Angeles is paid over two million dollars to carry some of Air America's programs. There is no time brokerage agreement, and no way for the public to know that these shows are paid for. WLIB New York is paid over 2.5 million to carry AAR's programs. This is allegedly being done through a Local Marketing Agreement, but there is no LMA in the WLIB public file, and no announcements about the payments are made on WLIB. These are just two examples of this prohibited practice.

It is not uncommon for networks or syndicators to provide compensation to broadcast outlets to have the commercial material within certain programs aired. Those payments are typically a fraction of the amount the syndicator charges the advertisers. The advertisers are the ultimate source of the payments, and they are clearly identified when the commercial matter is broadcast. The payments are part of a commercial transaction made for business reasons.

In the case of KTLK, the time that AAR sells within the programs it airs on KTLK yield far less than the two plus million paid to KTLK to carry those programs. Air America is not just using funds from identified advertisers to make payments to KTLK, it is also using funds from political organizations and individuals who want to get their message heard. The Communications Act and the FCC rules require that such payments be disclosed, and they are not. If there is any doubt about this practice, AAR has a

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full time department whose job it is to raise funds from political groups to support such activities. Air America pays stations to broadcast political speech.

Air America might well argue that KTLK would not air AAR programs without payment. This is no different than record labels who find that stations won't air certain musical selections without payment. If payments or consideration of any kind are made for music, political speech, or to quote 43 CFR 73.1212, "any matter", there must be disclosure. There is none. A listener in Los Angeles has no way to know that KFI pays a fee for the right to carry Rush Limbaugh, KABC pays for the right to carry Sean Hannity, but KTLK RECEIVES millions in undisclosed payments to air Al Franken and other AAR shows.

I hope that regardless of your political affiliation, you will continue to make it clear that if payments are made for any matter aired on a broadcasting station, the public must be informed.

Thank you for your attention to this situation.

Respectfully,

A frustrated broadcaster.

5/5/2006

**Sandralyn Bailey**

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**From:** janet williamson [wmsonmill@sbcglobal.net]**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 7:39 PM**To:** KJMWEB**Subject:** Fake news

MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

I want to file a complaint against WGN- TV Chicago,Il for show fake news reports and using their own reporters and portraying these "news reports" as investigative pieces (aka phisshing featuring Kurt the Cyberguy) not paid propaganda which they are. I believe this is an unacceptable use of the public airways and this blatant deception. Corporate commercials masquerading as news is more damaging to the people of America than Janet Jackson's exposed breast . I hope that you and your staff will put an end to this immediately and that heavy fines will ensue.

Rhonda Miller  
1516 w 88Th st  
Chicago. Illinois

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5/5/2006

**SandraLyn Bailey**

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05-17-1

**From:** Jon-Paul Kroger [jon-paul.kroger@cognis.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 07, 2006 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jonathan Adelstein  
**Subject:** Please Regulate Video News Releases (VNRs)

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MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Commissioner Adelstein,

I saw your appearance on Free Speech Television and I applaud your concern over the user of Video News Releases (VNRs) on local and nation news broadcasts. The news media have a responsibility to operate in the public's interest. Airing VNR's without complete and continuous on-screen disclosure undermines that trust. I strongly urge you to take swift action to require broadcasters to provide complete and continuous on-screen disclaimers when they air VNRs. I have no problem with them being broadcast, but citizens need to know these are not independent news stories but pre-packaged public relations segments disguised as news. Thank you for considering this issue.

Regards,

JP

---

JP Kroger  
Groupware/Intranet Systems Analyst  
PH:(513) 482-2348  
Cell:(513) 257-3374  
Fax:(513) 482-5509  
jon-paul.kroger@cognis.com

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**SandraLyn Bailey**

05/17/

**From:** Barb Kaiser [barbkaiser@earthlink.net]**RECEIVED****Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2006 11:17 AM**To:** Jonathan Adelstein

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**Subject:** Reliable Sources InterviewFederal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Mr. Adelstein

I saw you on Reliable Sources and agree very much with what you said. I am particularly concerned about the so called journalism reporting new "advances in medicine" which are thinly veiled advertisements for the pharmaceutical industry. I question whether the FCC will take them on as they now provide the bread and butter for TV entertainment.

However, in the hopes that you will take notice: CNN's Wolf Blitzer's evening report on The Situation Room is a prime example (yesterday April 17)

They made it sound like they found a new cure for cancer not another use for a drug that has been around and still has side effects. Probably this story came from Elly Lilly but we were never told who the research was done by what group provide the information, etc. Though there was no video news packaging, that I recall, it still isn't news, it's marketing. Why don't you go after these guys? They are everywhere.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Barbara Kaiser R.N.

(Yes, I am a nurse who resents the barrage of drug advertisements disguised as public health)

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MAY - 5 2006

05/17/

**Sandralyn Bailey**

~~Federal Communications Commission~~  
Office of the Secretary

**From:** lon@my5280.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 1:27 AM  
**To:** KJMWEB; Michael Copps; Jonathan Adelstein; dtaylor@tateweb  
**Subject:** Fair and Balanced?

I would like the FCC to look into the integrity of national media to determine if the public is being fairly served or if opinion, conjecture and propaganda with political motives are being passed off as legitimate news. I'd like to see greater regulation into what can be called news vs. commentary. I'd like to see stations held accountable to a standard of true non-partisan fairness when it comes to news. It seems that we place a great deal of public trust in the large corporations that supply our news, and when it becomes a tool to manipulate rather than inform I think it's up to the FCC to bring us back into balance.

Thanks,  
Lon Breslow  
Denver, CO

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05/17/

**SandraLyn Bailey****From:** Timothy Karr [tkarr@freepress.net]Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 1:07 PM**To:** Deborah Tate; Kevin Martin; Jonathan Adelstein; Michael Copps**Cc:** Jessica Rosenworcel; Rudy Briscoe; Heather Dixon; John Grant; 'Ben Scott'; 'Craig Aaron'**Subject:** Free Press and CMD complaint on Fake News

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Please find attached a formal complaint from Free Press and the Center for Media and Democracy regarding the apparently widespread airing of undisclosed "video news releases."

This follows the release earlier today of "Fake TV News: Widespread and Undisclosed," a report by the Center for Media and Democracy, which documents the use of these undisclosed VNRs by 77 broadcast licensees.

Please contact Ben Scott, our policy director (at 202 265-1490), or myself if you have additional questions or require more information.

Regards,

Timothy Karr  
Campaign Director  
Free Press  
201 232-9609

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Timothy Karr  
Campaign Director  
Free Press  
www.freepress.net  
1.201.533.8838

Join a daily discussion on the state of our digital union at MediaCitizen:  
<http://mediacitizen.blogspot.com/>

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

05-171

**From:** Arlene Gnazzo [ag20031@netzero.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2006 12:12 AM  
**To:** KJMWEB  
**Subject:** Comments to the Chairman

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MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Arlene Gnazzo (ag20031@netzero.net) writes:

Are you going to stop this recent so called "Fake Newsreports"? This is more outrageous than selling prescription drugs on TV, what else are you going to allow? Time to stop the above mentioned outrages, get some dignity in this govt.

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Remote IP address: 4.234.30.10

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**Sandralyn Bailey**

**From:** Surowicz, Simon [Simon.Surowicz@abc.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 08, 2006 11:29 AM  
**To:** Jonathan Adelstein  
**Subject:** VNR report

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MAY - 5 2006

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Dear Mr. Adelstein,

My name is Simon Surowicz and I am producer for ABC News correspondent Brian Ross. I was wondering if we could do a quick radio interview with you sometime on Monday for a piece on the latest Video News Release report. We can do it from any landline.

Sincerely,

Simon Surowicz  
ABC News  
Producer  
212 456 2043

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5/5/2006

05-11  
RECEIVED**Sandralyn Bailey**

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**From:** paula enscore [penscore@triad.rr.com]**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 2:48 PMFederal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**To:** president@whitehouse.gov; michael.powell@fcc.gov; Kathleen Abernathy; Jonathan Adelstein;  
Michael Copps; Kevin Martin; senator@dorgan.senate.gov; webform@wyden.senate.gov**Subject:** Paid advertising by media personalities

Ofcourse we should be notified if a product is placed on the basis of financial reciprocation. Everyone has an agenda, but since we are people affected physically and financially by what we consume we should be informed. But this is often not the case, and many--like myself--are not only losing faith in our medias, but also our governments for not protecting those who would readily believe in what they are fed if it "looks good."

Paula Enscore  
UNCG Student

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MAY - 5 2006

05-171

SandraLyn Bailey

**From:** Varie Menache [Variem@sbcglobal.net] **Federal Communications Commission**  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 3:13 PM **Office of the Secretary**  
**To:** dtayloratweb  
**Subject:** VNR's

*Corporations and government, with much flag waving and extreme nationalism, have merged. As much as it pains me to use the word fascism to describe America, that is what we have devolved into and the FCC is complicit in this descent by allowing corporations and politicians to take over the airwaves and use them to mislead the public into buying their products and accepting their propaganda as fact. This practice must be stopped. There must be honesty and fairness on the airwaves. There must be someone with enough integrity at the FCC to save the day with a course correction of American airwaves. How is it possible that you could make such a big deal out of the Janet Jackson incident and then ignore a real threat to freedom and democracy by allowing propaganda and "pretend" news to take over the airwaves? It is unbelievably hypocritical that the US government wants to "aggressively" spread freedom overseas while deliberately taking away freedom from citizens here. The FCC needs to stop the practice of fake news (VNR's) and restore real reporting, credibility, fairness and balance to television news. You are way off course and it is time for major corrections. ~ Varie Menache*

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